

SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob & Pat Stokes, Editors

Volume 16

February 2003

ANNUAL MEETING

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. MARCH 11, 2003

215 THE ALLEY, THE AIKEN CONFERENCE CENTER

(IN THE AIKEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING)

TIME TO RENEW YOUR SRSRA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003

(see page 9 of this newsletter)

INSIDE INSIGHT

Chairman's Letter	1	SRS Activities	5
Pension Related News	2	Limited Service Employment	7
More on the Annual Meeting	4	By-Laws Amendment	7
ORA Activities	4	Benefits Contacts / BOD Contacts	8
Medical Benefits Issue	4	Membership Dues Renewal Form	9

Chairman's Letter

Mark your calendar and plan to attend your SRS Retiree Annual Meeting on March 11, 2003. The meeting will be held at 215 The Alley in the City of Aiken Conference Center (the same location as last year). Dr. Ralph DiSibio, President, Washington Energy & Environment, will be the keynote speaker. See the article on page 4 for more information. The doors will open at 12 noon; and although we do not provide lunch, free snacks will be available.

Look for information in this newsletter regarding the following recent items discussed at your Board of Directors (BOD) monthly meetings. One item responded to retiree inquiries after it was learned that the September 2002 pension adjustment excluded a subset of retirees. The exclusion was a WSRC decision and is consistent with general industry practice. Your BOD has evaluated the situation. A detailed report is included in this newsletter. A brief report on this subject will also be presented at the Annual meeting. Another item, part of our agenda refocusing effort, addresses ongoing issues with retiree medical benefits. An interim report

with recommendations is included below. We can't emphasize enough the importance of your monitoring medical bill summaries from both Medicare and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Your newsletter will continue to provide information on medical benefits in the future.

Members of your Board of Directors met with Mr. Bob Pedde on February 3, 2003. The meeting was a follow-up to similar meetings held in the past. We reiterated our mission statement and our thanks for Mr. Pedde's support of the SRSRA September 2002 pension adjustment. The thrust of the meeting discussed ongoing SRSRA support to the Site; e.g., participating in public meetings, citizen committees, SRS United Way campaigns, and interaction with politicians. We also discussed LSE support from SRSRA to the site (see later info in this newsletter). We discussed the possibility of SRSRA being on distribution to receive WSRC Senior Management email news releases. The meeting wrapped up with a discussion about future SRSRA support for educating new residents who move into the CSRA about SRS history, policy and procedures that maintain a safe environment for Aiken and the surrounding area. The meeting went very well; it was mutually beneficial to the Site and SRSRA. You can expect additional meetings of this nature in the future.

You all heard President Bush's agenda on Medicare reform in the State-of-the-Union speech. It appears that the prescription drug program is a high priority item this year. Your BOD will closely monitor this proposed new Federal program because it may impact the prescription drug benefits we currently enjoy. We will follow the congressional action and react accordingly as details are released.

A reminder, the Mellon Bank 1099-R 2002 retirement income statement you received the last week of January is about one-half of your WSRC/BSRI 2002 retirement income. Recall that the Site's WSRC People Support Service Center took over pension check distribution from Mellon Bank in mid-2002. The remainder of your 2002 income is in a statement from the WSRC/BSRI People Support Service Center.

In closing, I urge you to become involved in the SRSRA--it is your organization--WE NEED YOUR HELP; specifically, we need your participation in the BOD agenda refocusing program. Please attend the BOD meetings typically scheduled the first Tuesday of the month at the Aiken Knights of Columbus Hall off Daugherty Road. Meeting dates are shifted (infrequently) to accommodate holidays and other conflicts. Call your Chairman or any BOD member to confirm the meeting date and place.

Sincerely,

Dave Cowfer, Chairman
Savannah River Site Retirees Association

Pension Related News

Deferred Vested Pension Benefit recipients did not receive a pension increase

It has come to the attention of your SRSRA that some people receiving pension checks were excluded from receiving a pension adjustment. These individuals are primarily those DuPont retiree/rehires that are now receiving pension checks under the recently established "Deferred" (with immediate payment) provision of the WSRC/BSRI Pension Plan. In fact, the Pension Plan was specifically amended to provide for immediate pension payments to this group. These employees all had less than 15 years of service with WSRC/BSRI at the

time they began receiving their pension benefit.

Members of the Pension Committee and other Board members have been reviewing this issue. Presented below are the findings of this review.

Background

Under the WSRC/BSRI Plan, employees can receive pension benefits after having met eligibility requirements in one of five categories (see the Pension Plan Booklet dated 10/2000, p. 2). They are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Normal Retirement | (3) Optional Retirement | (5) Deferred Pension Benefit |
| (2) Early Retirement | (4) Incapability Retirement | |

Employees in categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 have long tenure and retire with at least 15 years of service. Employees in category 5 typically have shorter tenure and work for several companies during his/her career. In the WSRC/BSRI plan, a category 5 retiree will have between five and fifteen years of service, and must usually wait until age 65 to receive pension benefits. As part of the 1993 and 1995 early retirement incentive programs, an exemption to allow an immediate annuity was made by WSRC and DOE for category five retiree/rehires. The WSRC/BSRI Pension Plan was then amended to allow immediate pension payments to category 5 retiree/rehires.

When your Board prepared the request for a pension adjustment, our objective was twofold: (1) to provide a pension adjustment as had been periodically provided by the previous site contractor, and (2) to provide an adjustment similar to that requested by and subsequently approved for retirees at the Oak Ridge site. In both cases, retirees with a deferred benefit (category five retirees) were not included in the pension adjustment. This exception is also consistent with the administration of most corporate pension plans.

However, it is now evident that the situation for WSRC/BSRI retirees is not typical of other DOE sites and industry in general. The proportion of WSRC/BSRI retirees with between five and fifteen years of service is much greater than for most other organizations. Included in these numbers were employees who retired from DuPont and were rehired by WSRC/BSRI. These employees did not have an opportunity to accumulate fifteen years of service and, therefore, could not qualify for a pension benefit that is normally considered for periodic adjustment. In fact, many employees with less than 15 years service were targeted in the early retirement incentive programs. Your Board believes that these retirees should be addressed in the future requests for pension adjustment.

Path Forward

Your Board is committed to periodically requesting a pension adjustment for WSRC/BSRI retirees as economic circumstances dictate. The Board also believes that employees with between five and fifteen years of service who retire under an early retirement incentive program should be treated similarly to retirees with over fifteen years of service. It is the intent of the SRSRA to include these adversely affected retirees in our next request for a pension adjustment.

More on the Annual Meeting

The 2003 Annual Meeting of the SRS Retiree Association will be held on Tuesday March 11th in the City of Aiken Conference Center in the Municipal Building at 215 The Alley in downtown Aiken. It is important that you show support for the association by attending the Annual Meeting.

The doors will open for registration and membership renewal at 12:00 pm, and the meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ralph DiSibio President of Washington Energy and Environment, the parent company of Westinghouse Savannah River Company. Invited guests include U. S. Senator Lindsey Graham, U. S. Representative Gresham Barrett, U. S. Representative Charles Norwood, U.S. Representative Joe Wilson and Robert A. Pedde, President of the Westinghouse Savannah River Company.

The election of SRS Retiree Association Board members will take place during the meeting. The slate of candidates drawn up by the nomination committee is:

Full two-year term – Art Blanchard, Fred Cavanaugh, George Duke, James Fuqua, Tom Greene, Chuck Hyatt, Paul Katonak, Warren Kenrick, Nick Kuehn, Thomas Moore, Jim Morrison, Ray Perks, Bill Quinn, Charles Riley and Chuck Seitter.

Election to complete a one-year term -Art Hadden.

Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting if the candidate is present and agrees to serve as a Board Member.

ORA Activities

The ORA is continuing to add opportunities for member discounts at businesses throughout the CSRA. The most recent additions include Bobby Jones Ford where ORA members can purchase Ford vehicles at fleet prices, Heartbeats Health and Fitness Club in Aiken where a significant reduction in membership dues are available to ORA members, and at the new Super 8 Motel near the Aiken Mall where reduced room rates are available to ORA members. Detailed information on these and other programs is available at www.SRS-ORA.com or by calling ORA Director Ben Burnau at 952-9866. Ben will also be at the March SRS Retirees Association Meeting to answer questions on any subject regarding the ORA and receive suggestions regarding new ORA programs that might be of interest to SRS retirees.

The ORA Board of Directors has initiated planning meetings to determine what enhancements and new or expanded programs, if any, should be provided at the ORA Recreation Site to improve its usefulness to employees, retirees and the general public. The site road will be paved in 2003, significantly improving access to the various facilities. Any ideas for new programs or site modifications would be of value to assist in this planning effort and can be provided to Ben or Paul Katonak at 649-9457.

Medical Benefits Issue

All SRSRA members need to be aware that, in those situations where Medicare is the Primary Provider and BC/BS is the Secondary Provider, the initial BC/BS Statement of Reimbursement may fail to recognize the

extent of coverage provided by the WSRC BC/BS Team Plan.

Explanation: A discrepancy could occur, for example, when Medicare does not cover a routine examination or a diagnostic procedure. Medicare will deny the claim. Then, the initial BC/BS response may also deny coverage. However, the WSRC BC/BS Team Plan may provide more coverage for some routine exams and certain diagnostic procedures than typical BC/BS plans. Therefore, if an SRSRA member is denied coverage, the retiree may want to contact BC/BS to request a review because the WSRC BC/BS Team Plan may provide for coverage and payment of the claim.

There are other situations that have occurred, in addition to those described above, when further reimbursement has been paid to claimants when they have appealed to BC/BS.

Because of the numerous situations that could be involved, the Newsletter does not presume to recommend when, or if, an appeal should be made. Rather, it is suggested you call BC/BS Customer Service at 1-800-325-6596 when you have a question about the handling of a claim or to have it reviewed if it has been denied. Also check your claim at the BC/BS website at www.southcarolinablues.com. You may also call the People Support Service Center (see Benefits Contacts numbers later in this issue). In addition, the WSRC Team Medical Plan provides for the right of any participant, who is dissatisfied with the BC/BS disposition of their claim, to file for an appeal of their claim. For an appeal, call the WSRC Benefits Office (Cindy McClintock 803-725-7004, Medical Plan Administrator) to initiate this action.

The SRSRA is planning to meet with WSRC Benefits personnel and BC/BS representatives to obtain further clarification and understanding on how claims are processed and coverage is determined under the WSRC Team Medical Plan for those members whose primary coverage is Medicare. Watch for more information on this subject in future newsletters.

SRS Activities

Reorganization of WSRC

The main news recently reported by the Site is the major reorganization of WSRC. The previous organization consisting of several Divisions has been replaced by one with four Business Units, namely: Closure, Operations, Field Support Services, and Project Design and Construction Services. Each Business Unit has an Acting Chief Officer (former Division V.P.'s and General Managers). Several external candidates are being interviewed for these positions, but no permanent appointment announcements will be made until WSRC is ready to announce the leadership of all four new Business Units. Most of the managers reporting to the Acting Chief Officers of the four Business Units have been named. The first day of operation of this new structure was January 6, 2003.

The Chief Officers as well as the Director of SRTC will report to WSRC President Bob Pedde. It is expected that there will be organizational realignments within SRTC to be compatible with the Business Units structure described above. In addition to these changes, certain senior managers and their functions will make up the Office of the President; e.g. the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Public Affairs. WSRC management recognizes that many things still need to be "tweaked" to ensure that this new organization fully operates in an effective and efficient manner. We wish WSRC well in these efforts.

Last Highly Radioactive Material Removed From F-Canyon

WSRC reached a significant milestone in late January when it successfully completed a continuous transfer of 30,000 gallons of highly radioactive Americium/Curium (Am/Cm) solution from F-Canyon to the H Tank Farm. The transfer was significant because it was the last of F-Canyon's highly radioactive material, and because it was the first time such a large amount of material was transferred at once. After 2 years of work to change those restraints and an enormous amount of teamwork, the transfer took place seamlessly. Cold runs were conducted late last year to ensure all facility modifications and other changes were working as designed.

The material is now stored in H Tank Farm's Tank 51, where it will become part of the next large sludge batch to be vitrified in the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). The transfer took about 18 hours, as the material traveled through more than 2 miles of pipes, from F-Canyon to the F Area Tank Farm, then through an inter-area transfer line to the H Tank Farm. Eight different control rooms worked together simultaneously and seamlessly. The transfer was completed more than 2 months ahead of schedule. The successful transfer is a major step for F-Canyon's accelerated closure and risk reduction.

SRS Accelerates Program for Shipping Nuclear Waste out of South Carolina

During the last 6 months of 2002, SRS dramatically increased the removal of transuranic nuclear waste (TRU) from the state of South Carolina and set the stage for even greater performance in the future. Beginning in May 2001, the TRU waste program at SRS has been approved to ship waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Since the TRU transports began, SRS has sent 50 shipments to WIPP, compared with the 19 that were scheduled.

In 2003, the site intends to make 144 shipments and will surpass the number that was originally scheduled through 2014. Overall, the accelerated schedule will mean that all the currently stored TRU waste at SRS is planned to be transported and disposed of at WIPP by 2014 instead of 2034. To accomplish this acceleration, SRS teamed with the National TRU Waste Program to host the first deployment of a mobile characterization capability. Three mobile characterization systems were transferred to SRS and have served as the springboard for the accelerated shipments.

The TRU waste stored at SRS consists of clothing, residues, debris and other items contaminated with small quantities of radioactive elements – primarily trace amounts of plutonium. Approximately 11,000 cubic meters of TRU waste is stored at SRS. Over 50% of the waste is stored in drums with the remainder mostly in large box type containers. SRS's first 50 shipments have consisted of 42 drums per shipment.

Final Remediation Plan set for Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground

The final clean-up of the highest priority waste site at SRS can begin shortly, thanks to an agreement signed last year between DOE, South Carolina DHEC, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) has the Site's highest concentration of radionuclides that could be released to the environment. Through a Record of Decision signed by the EPA and SCDHEC, the plan calls for the consolidation of radioactive waste materials. These materials are mostly soils from four relatively small nearby waste sites, which will be added to the ORWBG.

With the incorporation of waste materials from these smaller sites, the Burial Ground closure will then be called the General Separations Area Consolidation Unit. A protective geo-synthetic cap will be placed over the Burial Ground, followed by a layer of soil and vegetation. The decision to cap the unit protects workers from risks of exposure that would exist using more invasive options. Another project has also been operating to reduce tritium migration via groundwater to a stream from the Burial Ground.

Continued institutional controls will ensure that the cover is properly maintained and intruders kept out. When it becomes necessary or desirable to end institutional controls, perhaps in 100 years, intruder barriers will be installed over certain areas containing elevated amounts of persistent contamination. Most of the ORWBG already has a soil cover as a result of a 1996 interim action. An exception is the area around 22 buried solvent tanks, which are now being filled with grout and will be left in place – the last part of the Burial Ground to be remediated. That interim action will be completed by 2003.

The ORWBG, last used in 1974, is a 76 acre disposal area for solid radioactive waste. The greatest volume of waste was low-level incidental waste from production and laboratory operations, including small equipment, spent air filters, clothes, plastic sheeting, gloves, soil, and construction debris. Most of the wastes disposed of there were placed in drums, cans, cardboard boxes, plastic bags, and metal containers and buried in earthen trenches about 20 feet deep.

Limited Service Employee (LSE) Opportunities

Members of the SRSRA Board of Directors met recently with Bob Pedde to discuss the mission and objectives of the SRSRA. As in previous meetings, Mr. Pedde expressed an interest in having a cadre of retirees available to supplement, on a short term basis, the staffing shortfalls at SRS. We reported that the SRSRA package of resumes presented to the Site, for LSE support at Mr. Pedde's request, has not resulted in any action from WSRC. Mr. Pedde responded that Site staffing needs are expected to be defined in 4-6 weeks. He felt a need for LSE support might arise as early as the end of March 2003. As noted in previous SRSRA newsletters, those interested in possible LSE opportunities at SRS should provide a short one page resume and a cover letter (two copies of each) to the SRSRA. One copy of that information will be forwarded to the SRS human resources office. Submit that information to the address at the top of this page, Attention: Mike French.

Bylaws Amendment

At the annual meeting, the membership will be asked to approve the revision and updating the SRS Retirees Association Bylaws.

Discussion: The Board of Directors is proposing a bylaws amendment that eliminates the Executive Committee and transfers the powers of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors. The current bylaws give the Executive committee certain powers to operate the Corporation.

It has been the practice for the full Board to meet on the first month of the quarter and the Executive Committee to meet the second and third month of each quarter. Standing committees are composed of Board members who are not necessarily on the Executive Committee and those committees need to meet each month. As a result,

the full Board has been meeting each month. This presents a question of who can vote during the monthly meetings and what is a quorum. This new amendment will eliminate those questions. The revision will remove the Executive Committee requirement and transfer those responsibilities to the full Board of Directors.

In the past, approved amendments have normally been appended at the end of the bylaws or constitution. This current amendment (to remove the Executive Committee requirement) was spread so extensively through the bylaws it was felt that the bylaws should be revised to show the changes clearly. If this amendment is approved, the bylaws will be revised accordingly to eliminate the need for an Executive Committee and we will also merge all previously approved amendments into the revised bylaws document. The current bylaws and bylaws as they would be changed by this amendment will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Benefits Contacts

People Support Service Center (a one-stop service for most HR and payroll activities and questions)

- ◆ **803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA)**
- ◆ **800-368-7333 (long distance)**
- ◆ service-center@srs.gov (for email contact with this new service)

◇ **Life, Health, Dental**

Becky Proveaux PS Svc. Ctr. #
Rosalee Bennett PS Svc. Ctr. #
Greg Murray (803) 725-0531
Cindy McClintock (803) 725-7004

◇ **Pension**

John Felkel (803) 725-7722
Viola Best (803) 725-1900

◇ **Internal Medicine Partners** (706) 792-5075 (Annual Physical Examinations)

◇ **Metropolitan Life** (800-360-2747) (WSRC/BSRI SIP Funds Program)

◇ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC**

1-800-325-6596
www.southcarolinablues.com
Option 1 for Medical
Option 2 for Dental
Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

◇ **Value Options** (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 1-800-333-6557

◇ **BAC (Westinghouse Corporate Pension)** 1-800-581-4222

◇ **Safety Eyeglass Office** Tom Cuny (803) 725-3379

SRSRA Board of Directors Contacts:

Dave Cowfer (803-641-1056)	Fred Cavanaugh* (803 649-1583)		
John Church (803-648-1260)	Bob Stokes (803-649-3362)		
Art Blanchard* (803-642-9117)	Ray Perks* (803-642-8654)		
Chuck Seitter* (803-642-7836)	Tom Greene* (803-279-5628)		
Dick Barclay	Art Hadden	Gerry Croom*	Nick Kuehn*
Sid Curry	Mike French	George Duke*	Bill Quinn*
Jim Gibbons	Stan Smith	Frank Givens*	Ray Sabol*
John Jones	Joe Bickley*	Diane Grant*	Tom Hendrix
Frank Langford	Sam Goforth	Don Grogan*	
Harry Ledbetter*	Al Hunter	Paul Katonak*	

(* = members whose current term ends in March, 2003)

MEMBERSHIP

SRSRA was founded in 1998 and is the largest retirement organization formally registered in the state of South Carolina. SRSRA representatives hold frequent meetings with senior DOE and WSRC Team staff at SRS and members of the South Carolina and Georgia congressional delegations. The keynote speakers at our 2002 Annual Meeting were Congressman Lindsey Graham and WSRC President Bob Pedde.

The SRSRA can be your voice with the site and with the local congressional representatives. SRSRA keeps abreast of activities and issues concerning retirees. TODAY WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO JOIN THE SRSRA!

YOUR REMINDER: IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003! PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK FOR YOUR 2003 MEMBERSHIP DUES. PLEASE REMIND OTHER RETIREES, WHO MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THE SRSRA ORGANIZATION AND ITS OBJECTIVES, TO CONTACT RAY PERKS (TEL. 803-642-8654) TO GET ON THE MEMBERSHIP LIST. CALL Ray Perks 803 642 8654

Return to: **SRS Retiree Association**
P. O. Box 5686
Aiken, S.C. 29804

.....
_____ Please send me more information on the SRSRA.

_____ Yes, I want to join as a member in SRSRA. I would serve on the SRSRA BOD. _____ Yes _____ No

_____ Yes, my SRS retired spouse wants to join as a member in SRSRA and would serve on the SRSRA BOD. _____ Yes _____ No

Annual Dues: Year 2003

_____ \$15 for Retiree
_____ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (if also retired from SRS)
_____ \$5 for Retiree's Survivor Spouse

Year 2004

_____ \$15 for Retiree
_____ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (if also retired from SRS)
_____ \$5 for Retiree's Survivor Spouse

RETIREE NAME _____ SPOUSE NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

RETIREE RETIRED FROM: WSRC _____ BSRI _____ BWXT-SRC _____ BNFL-SRC _____ OTHER _____

RETIREE'S SPOUSE RETIRED FROM: WSRC _____ BSRI _____ BWXT-SRC _____ BNFL-SRC _____ OTHER _____

RETIREE DATE OF RETIREMENT _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

RETIREE'S SPOUSE DATE OF RETIREMENT _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Return to: **SRS Retiree Association** **P. O. Box 5686** **Aiken, S.C. 29804**